

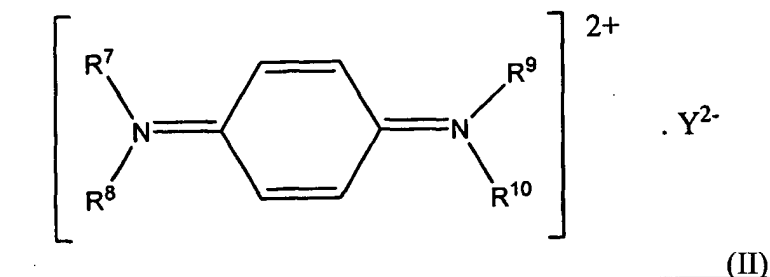
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A near-infrared absorption film having a base film and a near-infrared absorption layer formed on the base film, wherein

the near-infrared absorption layer ~~contains a diimmonium compound~~ is at least one compound represented by formulae (II):



where each of R⁷ through R¹⁰ is at least one selected from a group consisting of an alkyl group, an aryl group, a group having aromatic ring, a hydrogen atom, and a halogen atom, X⁻ is a monovalent anion, and Y²⁻ is a divalent anion, and

wherein the diimmonium compound ~~which~~ has an endothermic peak of 220°C or more, determined from differential scanning calorimetry (DSC measurement) with temperature rising rate of 10°C/minute.

2. (original): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diimmonium compound has an endothermic peak from 225°C to 240°C, determined from the differential scanning calorimetry (DSC measurement) with temperature rising rate of 10°C/minute.

3. (canceled).

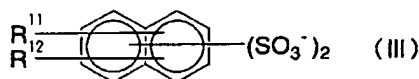
4. (currently amended): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the monovalent anion represented by X ~~may be~~ is a halogen ion ~~such as I⁻, Cl⁻, Br⁻, or F⁻; an inorganic acid ion, such as NO₃⁻, BF₄⁻, PF₆⁻, ClO₄⁻, or SbF₆⁻; an organic carboxylic acid ion such as CH₃COO⁻, CF₃COO⁻, or a benzoic acid ion[[:]], an organic sulfonic acid ion ~~such as CH₃SO₃⁻, CF₃SO₃⁻, a benzenesulfonic acid ion, or a naphthalenesulfonic acid ion.~~~~

5. (currently amended): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the divalent anion represented by Y²⁻ is ~~preferably~~ an aromatic disulfonic acid ion having two sulfonic acid groups and ~~specific examples of the divalent anion are an ion of naphthalenedisulfonic acid derivatives such as naphthalene 1,5-disulfonic acid, R acid, G acid, H acid, benzoyl H acid (a benzoyl group being attached to an amino group of H acid), p-chlorobenzoyl H acid, p-toluenesulfonyl H acid, chloro H acid (an amino group of H acid being replaced with a chlorine atom), chloroacetyl H acid, metanyl γ acid, 6-sulfonaphthyl γ acid, C acid, c acid, p-toluenesulfonyl R acid, naphthalene 1,6-disulfonic acid or 1-naphthol 4,8-disulfonic acid; carbonyl J acid, 4,4-diaminostilbene 2,2'-disulfonic acid, di J acid, naphthalic acid, naphthalene 2,3-dicarboxylic acid, diphenic acid, stilbene 4,4'-dicarboxylic acid, 6-sulfo-2-oxy-3-naphthoic acid, anthraquinone 1,8-disulfonic acid, 1,6-diaminoanthraquinone 2,7-~~

~~disulfonic acid, 2-(4-sulfophenyl)-6-aminobenzotriazole-5-sulfonic acid, 6-(3-methyl-5-pyrazolonyl)-naphthalene-1,3-disulfonic acid, 1-naphthol-6-(4-amino-3-sulfo)anilino-3-sulfonic acid.~~

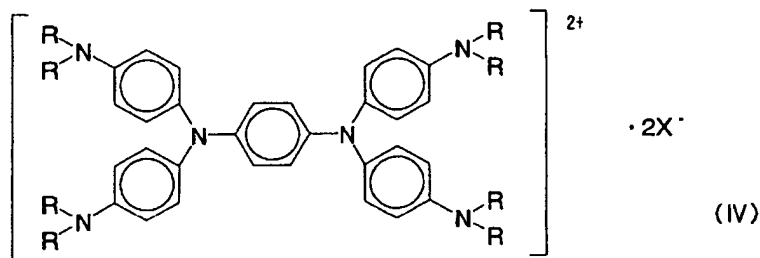
6. (previously presented): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 5, wherein the divalent anion represented by Y^{2-} is an naphthalenedisulfonic acid ion.

7. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 6, wherein the naphthalenedisulfonic acid ion is represented by the following formula (III):



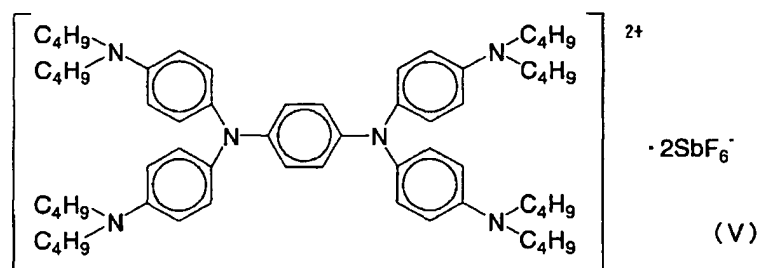
where each of R^{11} and R^{12} is at least one selected from a group consisting of a lower alkyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkylamino group, an amino group, $-\text{NHCOR}^{13}$, $-\text{NHSO}_2\text{R}^{13}$, $-\text{OSO}_2\text{R}^{13}$ [(O)] where R^{13} is at least one selected from a group consisting of aryl groups and alkyl groups, R^{13} may have substituent(s), an acetyl group, a hydrogen atom, and a halogen atom.

8. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the diimmonium compound is represented by the following formula (IV):



where R is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, preferably a n-butyl group, and X⁻ as the monovalent anion is preferably BF₄⁻, PF₆⁻, ClO₄⁻, or SbF₆⁻.

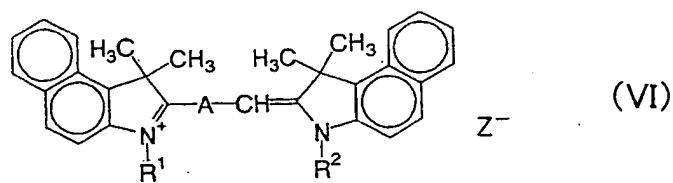
9. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 8, wherein the diimmonium compound is represented by the following formula (V):



10. (previously presented): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the near-infrared absorption layer contains 0.1% to 10% by weight of diimmonium compound.

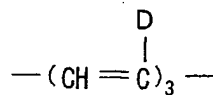
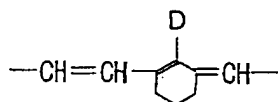
11. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the near-infrared absorption layer contains at least one selected from a group consisting of a cyanine compound, a phthalocyanine compound, a naphthalocyanine compound, and a nickel complex compound.

12. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 11, wherein the cyanine compound is a compound represented by the following formula (VI):

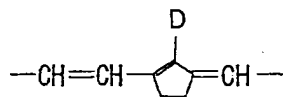


where A is a divalent conjugating group containing an ethylene group, each of R¹ and R² is a monovalent group having carbon atom(s), and Z⁻ is a monovalent anion.

13. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 12, wherein A is:



or



where D is one of an alkyl group, diphenyl amino group, a halogen atom, and hydrogen atom.

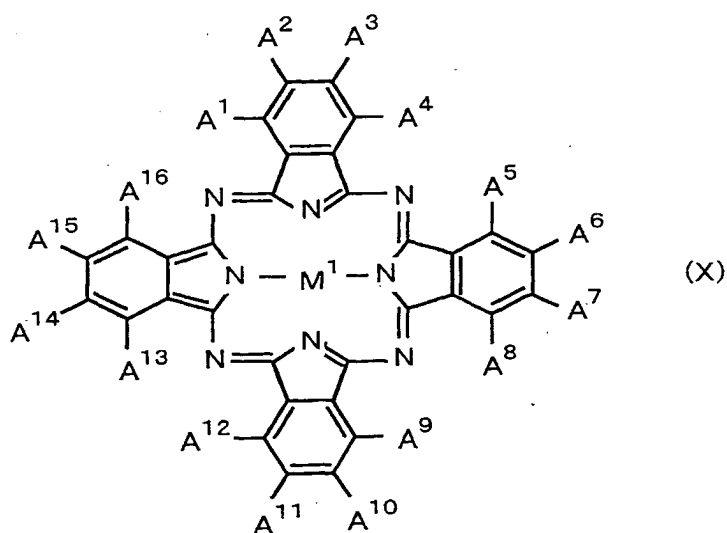
14. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 12 or 13, wherein each of R¹ and R² is an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an alkoxy carbonyl group, a sulfonyl alkyl group, or a cyano group.

15. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 12 or 13, wherein Z⁻ is I⁻, Br⁻, ClO₄⁻, or BF₄⁻, PF₆⁻, SbF₆⁻, CH₃SO₄⁻, NO₃⁻, or CH₃-CH₆H₄-SO₃⁻.

16. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 12, wherein the near-infrared absorption layer contains 50 parts by weight or less of the cyanine compound relative to 100 parts by weight of said diimmonium compound.

17. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 12, wherein the near-infrared absorption layer contains from 0.1 to 50 parts by weight of the cyanine compound relative to 100 parts by weight of said diimmonium compound.

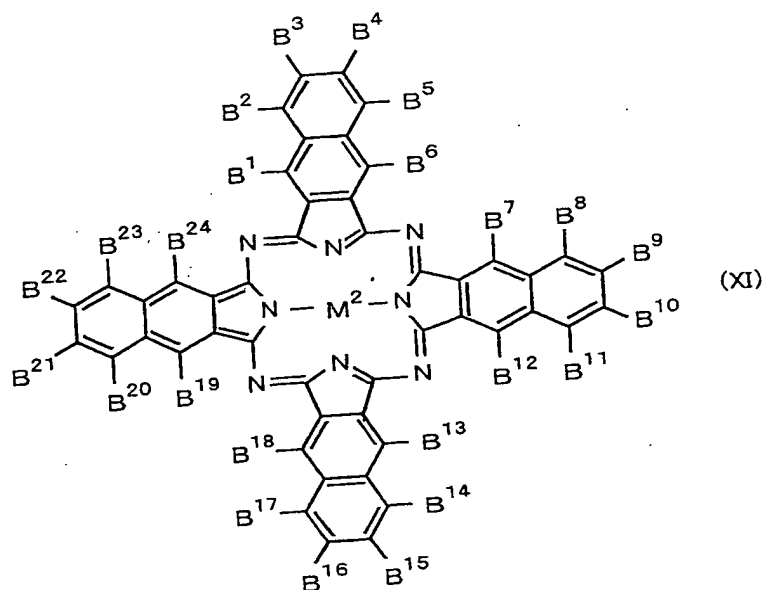
18. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 11, wherein the phthalocyanine compound is represented by the following formula (X):



where A¹ through A¹⁶ each represent independently either one of the followings, i.e. a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a hydroxysulfonyl group, an aminosulfonyl group, or a substituent having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, the substituent having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms may contain either one of the followings, i.e. a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom, an oxygen atom, and a halogen atom, and adjacent two substituents may be bonded to each

other via a conjugating group, wherein each of at least four of A^1 through A^{16} is at least either one of a substituent via sulfur atom and a substituent via nitrogen atom, and M^1 is either one of the followings, i.e. two hydrogen atoms, a divalent metallic atom, a trivalent or quadrivalent substituted metallic atom, and an oxy metal.

19. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 11, wherein the naphthalocyanine compound is represented by the following formula (XI):



where B^1 through B^{24} each represent independently either one of the followings, i.e. a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a hydroxysulfonyl group, an aminosulfonyl group, or a substituent having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, the substituent having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms may contain a nitrogen atom, a sulfur atom, an oxygen atom, and a halogen atom, adjacent two substituents may be bonded to each other via a conjugating group, wherein each of at least four of B^1 through B^{24} is at least either one of a substituent via oxygen

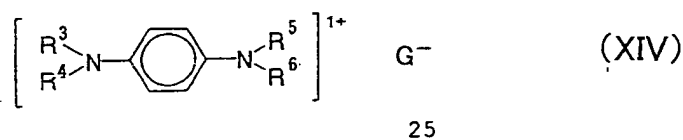
atom, a substituent via sulfur atom, a substituent via nitrogen atom, and M^2 is either one of the followings, i.e. two hydrogen atoms, a divalent metallic atom, a trivalent or quadrivalent substituted metallic atom, and an oxy metal.

20. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption as claimed in claim 1, wherein the near-infrared absorption layer contains a quencher compound.

21. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption as claimed in claim 20, wherein the quencher compound is a metallic compound represented by the following formula (XII) or (XIII), or an 20 aminium compound represented by the following formula (XIV):



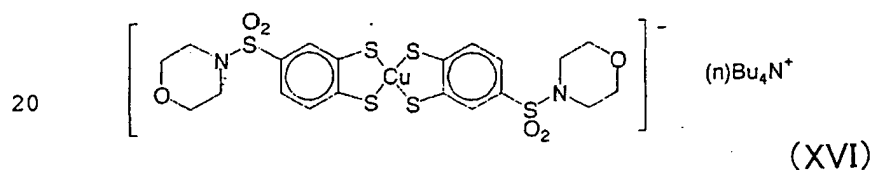
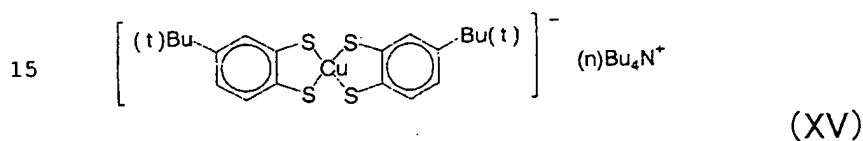
in the formulae (XII) and (XIII), M is Ni, Cu, Co, Pt, or Pd;



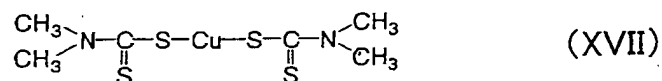
in the formula (XIV), each of R^3 through R^6 is at least one selected from a group consisting of an alkyl group, an aryl group, a group having aromatic ring, a hydrogen atom, and a halogen atom. G^- is I^- , Br^- , ClO_4^- , or BF_4^- , PF_6^- , SbF_6^- , $CH_3SO_4^-$, NO_3^- , or $CH_3-C_6H_4-SO_3^-$.

22. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 21, wherein the metallic compound represented by the formula (XII) is a 1,2-benzenethiol copper complex compound or a 1,2-benzenethiol nickel complex compound.

23. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 22, wherein 1,2-benzenethiol copper complex compound is represented by formula (XV) or (XVI):



24. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 21, wherein the metallic compound represented by the formula (XIII) is a complex represented by the following formula (XVII):



25. (withdrawn): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in any one of claims 20 through 24, wherein the near-infrared absorption layer contains 100 parts by weight or less of the quencher compound relative to 100 parts by weight of the diimmonium compound.

26. (previously presented): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the near-infrared absorption layer contains a binder resin.

27. (original): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 25, wherein the binder resin is polyester resin, acrylic resin, methacrylic resin, urethane resin, silicone resin, phenol resin, or a homopolymer or copolymer of (meth) acrylic acid ester.

28. (currently amended): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed claim 1, wherein the near-infrared absorption layer further contains a near-infrared absorbent (~~e.g. near-infrared absorbents of azo series, polymethine series, diphenylmethane series, triphenylmethane series, and quinine series~~), an antioxidant other than the quencher compound (~~e.g. antioxidants of phenol series, amine series, hindered bisphenol series, hindered amine series, sulfur series, phosphoric acid series, phosphorous acid series, and metallic complex series~~), an UV absorbent, and a colorant, a pigment, and a dye for improving the appearance of the film.

29. (previously presented): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thickness of near-infrared absorption layer is from 0.5 μm to 50 μm .

30. (previously presented): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base film -is made of a synthetic resin.

31. (currently amended): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim 30, wherein the synthetic resin is polyolefine polyolefin resin ~~such as polyethylene and polypropylene, polyester resin, acrylic resins, cellulose resin, polyvinylchloride resin, polycarbonate resin, phenol resin, or urethane resin.~~

32. (previously presented): A near-infra red absorption film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base film has a thickness from 50 μm to 200 μm .

33. (currently amended): A near-infrared absorption film as claimed in claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the divalent anion represented by Y^{2-} is naphthalene-1,5-disulfonic acid, R acid, G acid, H acid, benzoyl H acid (a benzoyl group being attached to an amino group of H acid), p-chlorobenzoyl H acid, p-toluenesulfonyl H acid, chloro H acid (an amino group of H acid being

replaced with a chlorine atom), chloroacetyl H acid, metanyl γ acid, 6-sulfonaphthyl- γ acid, C acid, ϵ acid, p-toluenesulfonyl R acid, naphthalene-1,6-disulfonic acid or 1-naphthol-4,8-disulfonic acid; carbonyl J acid, 4,4-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulfonic acid, di-J acid, naphthalic acid, naphthalene-2,3-dicarboxylic acid, diphenic acid, stilbene-4,4'-dicarboxylic acid, 6-sulfo-2-oxy-3-naphthoic acid, anthraquinone-1,8-disulfonic acid, 1,6-diaminoanthraquinone-2,7-disulfonic acid, 2-(4-sulfophenyl)-6-aminobenzotriazole-5-sulfonic acid, 6-(3-methyl-5-pyrazolonyl)-naphthalene-1,3-disulfonic acid, 1-naphthol-6-(4-amino-3-sulfo)anilino-3-sulfonic acid